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Dear Chairman Powell, Looking at the position of the Sattelite radio companies trying to gain themselves a toehold in the local radio market is not a puzzling issue. Surely it can be determined the Local broadcasters are entrenched in the communities they serve, and although most of them it seems are owned by some larger, distant corporation on the other side of the continent, they still are local in the sense they serve local needs, ie eas, community events and local news and weather. There is something left to be desired when one reaches a "fringe area" of reception for the local carrier, though, due either to terrestrial concerns, weather effects, or distance.

Speaking locally...I live about 60 miles from Portland, OR. Because of the terrain, I have very spotty radio reception, and even with an fm signal amplifier, I have marginal reception. If I want weather, I have a choice of either going to the television, or hoping I can receive well enough for my information. (that is, of course if the local station has a conveniently scheduled weather forecast) Or, I can look at the little rock hanging in my backyard on a string that tells me what the weather is doing. :)

I've been a subscriber to sattelite radio services about 6 months now, and seldom if ever utilize local radio. But not because poor reception, or inaccurate weather forecasts, It's because of the dialogue created by the people behind the microphone. I listen to radio for music, not jabbering incessantly about someone's great deals on used cars.

And there's the rub. Local radio is supported by advertising dollars. That has absolutely nothing to do with providing localized weather and traffic information, other than someone might listen elsewhere for their information, and the local advertizers don't want to lose the listeners.

I'd be willing to bet the local Broadcast television stations put up a similiar fight when the world of sattelite communications brought in the HBO's and theWTBS's. Look at what a blossoming industry came of sattelite televison. The spinoffs, like Broadband networking, and now even video over dsl lines is becoming a reality.

I say, "let the industry grow." Unencumbered. Unrestricted. Uncensored. It's a subscription service, paid for by those that choose to use it, and want it's services. I don't have a television in my car, and I sure would like to be able to get timely information regarding the mountain passes and road conditions.

Thanks for listening  
Dan Guthrie